

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of securing tissue to bone, comprising the steps of:

installing a suture anchor with an attached suture strand in a portion of bone adjacent a section of tissue to be secured;

piercing said tissue with a sharp distal end of a cannulated suture passing instrument;

passing a strand of flexible metallic material, formed into an elongated loop having a crimped end with an acute bend, through the cannulated suture passing instrument;

deploying ~~[[a]]~~ said loop formed of flexible ~~metal wire~~ metallic material from the sharp distal end of said cannulated suture passing instrument;

capturing said suture strand with said loop; and

passing said captured suture strand through said tissue by retracting the loop through the tissue.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

retrieving and passing said suture strand through an accessory portal;

retrieving and passing said loop through the accessory portal; and

capturing said suture strand with said loop outside of the accessory portal.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said suture stand is captured in said loop by threading said suture strand through a radius of said loop.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of retracting said suture passing instrument through said portal, leaving said flexible loop passing through said tissue.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of forming a knot between said suture strand and a second suture stand also attached to said suture anchor.

Claim 14. (Canceled)